

Amendments to the Specification

Pages 1-2, delete the paragraph that begins with “A frequently used . . .” and ends with “. . . and therefore hydrophilic.” and replace it with:

A frequently used type of lithographic printing plate precursor comprises a photosensitive coating applied onto ~~[[a]] an aluminum substrate on an aluminum basis~~. The coating can react to radiation such that the exposed portion becomes so soluble that it is removed during the developing process. Such a plate is referred to as positive working. On the other hand, a plate is referred to as negative working if the exposed portion of the coating is hardened by the radiation. In both cases, the remaining image area accepts printing ink, or is oleophilic, and the non-image area (background) accepts water, or is hydrophilic. The differentiation between image and non-image areas takes place during exposure, for which a film is attached to the printing plate precursor under vacuum in order to guarantee good contact. The plate is then exposed by means of a radiation source. Alternatively, the plate ~~[[an]]~~ can also be exposed digitally without film, e.g. by means of a UV laser. When a positive plate is used, the area on the film corresponding to the image on the plate is so opaque that the light does not reach the plate, while the area on the film corresponding to the non-image area is clear and allows light to permeate the coating, whose solubility increases. In the case of a negative plate, the opposite takes place: The area on the film corresponding to the image on the plate is clear, while the non-image area is opaque. The coating beneath the clear film area is hardened due to the incident light, while the area not affected by the light is removed during developing. The light-hardened surface of a negative working plate is therefore oleophilic and accepts printing ink, while the non-image area that used to be coated with the coating removed by the developer is desensitized and therefore hydrophilic.

Page 11, delete the paragraph that begins with "It is essential. . ." and ends with ". . . mixture comprising" and replace it with:

It is essential for the process according to the present invention that the diazo resin, the polymer with carboxyl groups soluble or swellable in alkaline solutions and optional additives [[be]] are dissolved in a solvent mixture comprising